

PROGRAM

*Bridges of the Camino:
Connecting Cultures and Hearts*



2025

GATHERING

May 15-18, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada



ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

*First Steps Together:
Weaving Threads of Connection*

Arrival marks the first steps of our shared journey, where individual paths converge to form a vibrant tapestry of connection. The check-in process is an opportunity to weave threads of camaraderie, kindness, and belonging as pilgrims come together for the first time.

Thursday, May 15, 2025

1:30pm–5:00pm: Registration and Room Check-in

Location: Gage Lobby

Our volunteer team will greet you and the UBC staff will provide your room assignments and keys.

2:00pm–4:00pm: Guided Orientation Walks

Meeting Point: Outside the Gage Lobby

These guided walks will depart periodically throughout the afternoon when we have groups assembled.

5:00pm – 5:45pm: Welcome Reception

Location: Gage Lobby and adjacent spaces

Join us for a catered welcome reception with light snacks and drinks before we head over as a group to the Vanier Place Cafeteria for dinner.

6:00pm – 6:45pm: Dinner

Location: Vanier Place Cafeteria

Following the Welcome Reception, we will walk as a group to the Vanier Place Cafeteria for dinner.

7:00pm: Welcome to the 2025 Gathering

Location: Alumni Center, Jack Poole Hall

Join us for a lively evening that will include special welcome presentations and a one-of-a-kind musical production written for this Gathering of Pilgrims!



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PLENARY SESSIONS

*Voices That Bridge Generations:
Wisdom and Inspiration from the Camino*

Let's start each day together with inspiring plenary sessions that bring all attendees together for shared learning, connection, and reflection.



Alfredo Martínez Serrano,
Ambassador of the
Kingdom of Spain to
Canada

The Camino de Santiago: Connecting
Europe, Connecting the World



Rebekah Scott

Wisdom of the Elders: A Bridge We
Cross Together



George Greenia

Spooky Remains: How Pilgrims
and Monasteries Met their Ends



Laurie Dennett

"Preparing the Great Invasion": Elias
Valiña and the Revival of the
Pilgrimage to Compostela

Dave Whitson

The Whole Boot: Following the Saints and
Centuries Across Italy

Jean-Marc Darveau

Compostelle, the Quebec Way: Tradition
and Modernity

Jen Manglos

Coming Home: Thriving in the Final
Stage of the Pilgrimage Experience

Rob Fennell

Camino Close to Home: The Gift of Local
Pilgrimages

Kelly Murphy Mason

Honoring our Inward Caminos:
Embracing Pilgrimage as Spiritual
Practice



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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Voices That Bridge Generations: Wisdom and Inspiration from the Camino

Each afternoon, you'll have the chance to join breakout sessions tailored to your interests. These diverse speakers embody the Camino's spirit, sharing insights that connect past and present, wisdom and journey.

Sandy Brown

The Via Francigena: A 3200km Wonder of Cultural and Scenic Beauty

Dennis Garnhum

Toward Beauty: Reigniting a Creative Life on the Camino de Santiago

Blaine Rada

Civil Discourse: The Path to Building Bridges and Tearing Down Walls

Phillipe Dionnet, FFACC and Ron McClatchie, ADQC

Walking *Les Chemins* in France

Daniel De Kay and Becky

Rush-Peet

Pilgrim First Aid - Classroom session and Practical Application

Patrick Moran

When History Becomes Myth: The Complex Legacy of the *Song of Roland*

Christine Petty and Kris Ashton

Walking the Shikoku 88 Temples Pilgrimage

Tim Boreham

Blunders and Breakthroughs: Coping with Challenges on the Camino

Colleen O'Toole and David Duncan

Camino Alchemy: Transforming Footsteps into Life's Gold

Miriam Gallet, Jim Larocco, and Angela Amos

Camino de Baztan: Mystical, Challenging, and Unknown

Tom Friesen and Martha Crites

Rocks in the Stream: Service on the Camino

Johnnie Walker Santiago, Paula Jager, Tom Labuziowski, and More

Service in Santiago

Shoshana Kewrewsky

Writing Your Camino To Connect With Yourself and Others

Ann Sieben

Pilgrimage on the Global Stage

Ellie Witzke

El Camino and the Healing Journey

Stephen F Haller

Creative Sketching as a way of developing 'pilgrim's mind'

Jason Nelson and Leslie Cowan

Dream Big: Walking/Rolling the Camino de Santiago

Alder Allensworth

Women on the Camino



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ENTERTAINMENT

*Stories, Music, and Laughter That Build Bridges:
Celebrating the Camino Spirit*

From music to storytelling, our entertainment lineup brings the heart of the Camino to life, weaving tales and tunes that connect us across languages and experiences. This celebration showcases how art forms a bridge that brings pilgrims together.



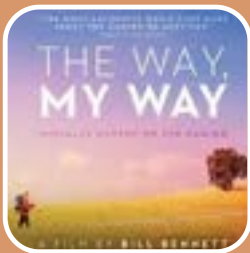
Welcome. Move Forward. Push a Celebration of the Journey

A theatrical and musical production by Dennis Garnhum.



Shell Ceremony

Join us as we recognize those pilgrims walking their first Camino in 2025, present them with a shell, and share some special music together!



The Way, My Way

A special screening of Bill Bennett's hit movie followed by a Director Q&A, including special guest Johnnie Walker Santiago!



The Merry Band of Pilgrims

Directed by fellow pilgrim Becky Rush-Peet, the Merry Band's World Tour comes to Vancouver, BC.



Crying on the Camino

Celeste Mancinelli's captivating comedy delves into the emotional and transformative journey of the Camino.



"The Raffle"

Legendary and wildly entertaining in its own right, "The Raffle" comes to the 2025 Gathering where you could win any number of prizes donated by you and your fellow pilgrims! You have to see it to believe it!



Cruz de Ferro Walk

Join us on Saturday morning as we walk together to our very own Cruz de Ferro.



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OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bridges of Reflection: Connecting Body, Mind, and Spirit

Morning walks, yoga, labyrinth exploration, the Camino marketplace, and pilgrim mass—serve as bridges between reflection and action, community and solitude. Each offers an opportunity to connect with others and oneself, embracing the holistic spirit of the Camino.



Getting Moving

We are finalizing plans for walks, morning yoga, and a labyrinth. Details coming soon!

Camino Marketplace

There will be a Camino Marketplace for vendors to display their items. It is recommended that, where possible, you bring samples and a QR code that customers can use to order the items and have them shipped to their homes.



Pilgrim Mass

Following the closing of the Gathering on Sunday, pilgrims who wish to participate are invited to a special Pilgrim Mass to be held at 2pm at St. Mark's Church on the UBC campus.



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CHECKOUT & DEPARTURE

*Farewell, Not Goodbye:
Bridges to the Future*

Departures are moments of reflection and gratitude, marking the transition from shared experiences to new adventures. The bridges we've built together ensure that while the gathering ends, its spirit continues to inspire our journeys ahead.

Sunday, May 18, 2025

11:00Am: Checkout

You should check out with the UBC staff at the Gage lobby in the morning before 11am. Temporary luggage storage will be available upon checkout.

12:00pm: Closing of 2025 Gathering

2025 Gathering Program will end at noon.

2:00pm: Pilgrim Mass (optional)

Following the closing of the Gathering on Sunday, pilgrims who wish to participate are invited to a special Pilgrim Mass to be held at 2pm at St. Mark's Church on the UBC campus.



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